Study of Toronto-based Munk Centre

585. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that as per the Toronto-based Munk Centre for International Studies, at least, 1300 computers are being used by China for espionage on other countries, including India; and

(b) if so, what measures Government is taking to protect country from such onslaughts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken several remedial measures to protect country from such onslaughts, these are:

(i) CERT-In has published several Security Guidelines for safeguarding computer systems from cyber attackers and these have been widely circulated. All Government Departments/Ministries, their subordinate offices and public sector undertakings have been advised to implement these guidelines to protect their computer systems.

(ii) CERT-In issues security alerts, advisories to prevent occurrence of cyber incidents and also conducts security workshops and training programs on regular basis to enhance user awareness.

(iii) The organizations operating critical information infrastructure have been advised to implement information security management practices based on International Standard ISO 27001.

(iv) The Information Technology Act, 2000 provides legal framework to address the issues connected with hacking computers and information technology infrastructure.

Submarine Cable Landing Station in West Bengal

586. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1034 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th November, 2007 and state:

(a) the present status of the Submarine Cable Landing Station project in Digha, West Bengal; and

(b) the expected date of completion of the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The Techno Commercial Evaluation of the bids for this project has been completed and it has been decided to open the financial bids on 8th July, 2009.